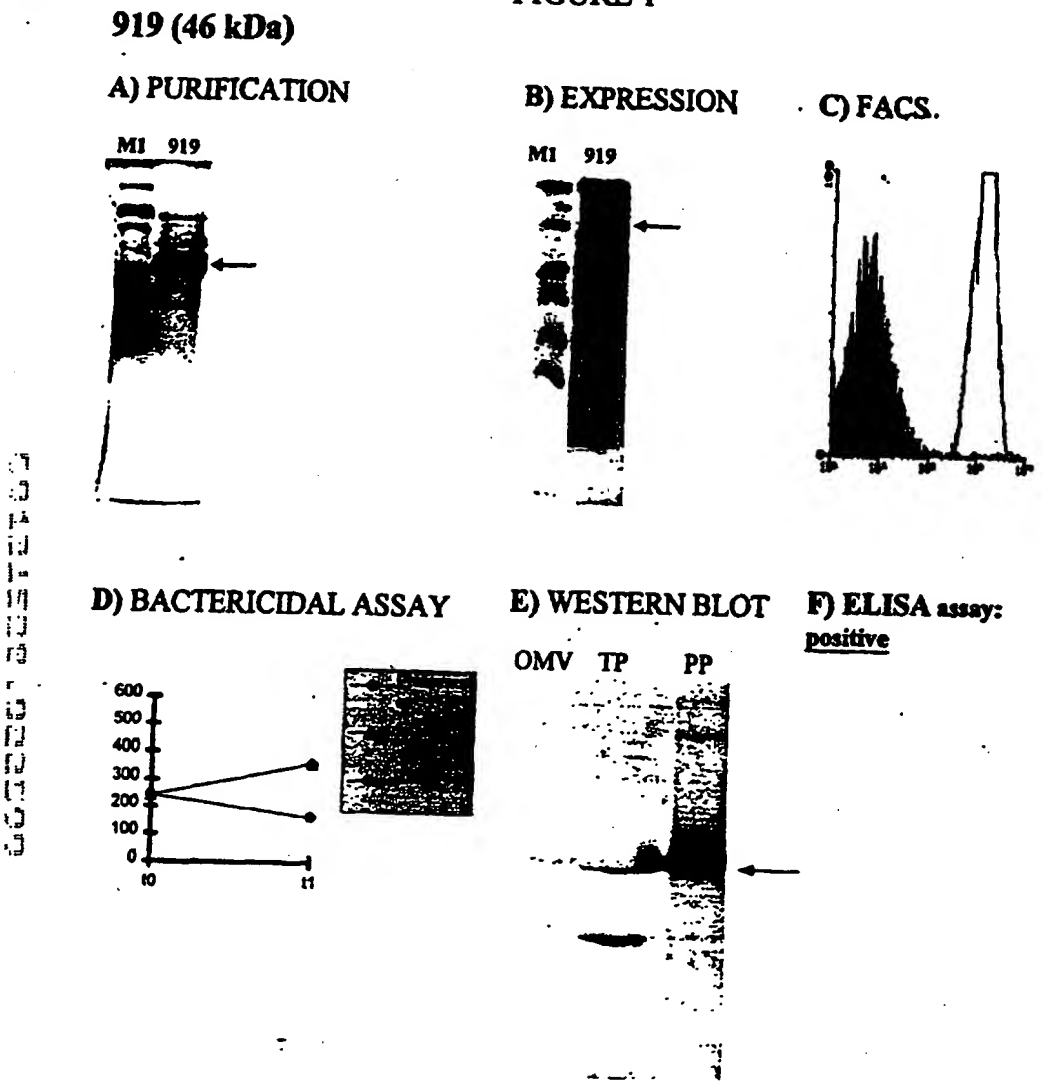
FIGURE 1



919

The predicted orf *919* was cloned in pET and pGex vectors and expressed in *E. coli*. The products of protein expression and purification were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. In panels A) and B) is shown the analysis of 919-His fusion protein purified on affinity column and 919-GST fusion protein expressed in *E. coli*, respectively. Mice were immunized with the purified 919-His and sera were used ELISA assay (panel F), Western blot (panel E) FACS analysis (panel C) and bactericidal assay (panel D). Results show that 919 is a surface-exposed protein. Symbols: M1, molecular weight markers; PP, purified protein, TP, *N. meningitidis* total protein extract; OMV, *N. meningitidis* outer membrane vesicle preparation. Arrows indicate the position of the main recombinant protein product (A and B) and the *N. meningitidis* immunoreactive band (E).